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6-19-01

MEMO

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



463182

To: Bruce Everetts
From: Greg Kazmerski
Subject: Y Not Used Tires drums
Date: June 19, 2001

On May 30, 2001 the IEPA Rockford Regional Office received a complaint of abandoned drums in a storage building located at 1140 Harrison Avenue in Rockford, Illinois. The complainant (Dayne Rogers) is a tenant of the facility. He rents the facility from Barret Rochman dba S I Securities. Mr. Rogers is the operator of Black Gold International, a used tire retail facility located at the same address. Mr. Rogers says that recently, while moving some empty plastic carboys, he discovered 30-50 containers in the back of a storage building in various stages of decay. Mr. Rogers said the containers were abandoned by a previous owner -Roger Garras- when Mr. Garras sold the property in 1995. Mr. Garras says that he purchased the building in 1992 from Libby Oil and Chemical and sold the building in 1995. He denies any responsibility or knowledge of the containers in question.

The site inspection of the facility revealed 30-50 containers located in the back (west) side of the middle of three storage buildings. A locked garage door on the front and a locked swinging door on the back secure the building. The building had a wooden floor with an unfinished crawl space below. There are no windows in this portion of the building. The area of concern consists of 30-50 containers of various size and construction including 55-gallon steel, 55-gallon plastic, 30-gallon steel and plastic, and fiber drums. The containers were in extremely poor condition. The containers were stacked two and three high and two or three rows deep. The containers appear to have been here for several years. A large amount of corrosion and other degrading processes was evident. A few of the drums were marked caustic. There was evidence of release from several of the drums but there was no flowing liquid or large pools at the time of the inspection. Photos 001-013 show the containers and the building as they appeared at the time of the inspection. In my estimation, the poor condition of the containers would preclude IEPA FOS from safely sampling many of the containers in a safe manner.

Mr. Luther Landon, an environmental consultant was on site at the time of my inspection. He is performing a phase 1 environmental assessment of the facility for S I Securities. He says that he has identified one of the containers as containing methylene chloride. He also got a field pH of 12 from a small pool of moisture on the floor near the containers.

On June 1, 2001 I attempted to confirm ownership of the property at the Winnebago County Recorder of Deeds office. According to the Recorder's office, S I Securities acquired the property on November 3, 2000 at a delinquent tax sale. The Winnebago County Treasurer's office confirmed this information. However, court documents show that on January 31, 2001, Judge Ronald Pirello of the 17th Circuit vacated the order issuing the tax deed based upon the presence of toxic waste and hazardous materials. At this time there appears to be no legal owner of the property.

The purpose of this memo is to seek the assistance of USEPA for an immediate removal of the waste.

cc: Region File









